The Secret of His Name

"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Acts 2:21)

In the record of Acts we can clearly see what 'the name' meant to the church in at Pentecost. The Lord Jesus had told them in almost the last words He spoke before passing from their view into heaven, ***"This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations…."*** (Lk. 24:46-47)

So Calvary, the Resurrection, repentance and remission of our sins are all linked and bound up in the preaching of 'His name'.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter's first words to the crowd of people who had come under conviction of their sin were, ***"Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins".*** (Acts 2:38)

To the lame man at the gate of the temple, Peter said**, *"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."*** (Acts 3:6) The power of 'the name' was emphasised again to the crowd who ran together to see the miracle. Peter told them it was ***"Faith in his name"*** that had brought about this amazing work. (Acts 3:16)

When Peter and John were brought before the high priest and the elders, Peter said to them, ***"Know this, you and all the People of Israel. It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed".*** (Acts 4:10) So 'the name' is linked to the power of Calvary and the Resurrection. That is the power of 'the name'.

The spiritual battle has raged around the name of Jesus ever since the Sanhedrin commanded Peter and John not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. (Acts 4:18) But the believers were learning that the all-powerful, living Lord Jesus was tied up in 'His name'. Their faith in Him and 'His name' grew. In Acts 4:30-31 we read, ***" 'Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."***

Again the apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. He said, ***"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."*** (Acts 5:28) He ordered them to be flogged and not to speak again in the name of Jesus.

Still the disciples didn't stop! ***"Day after day in the temple courts and from house-to-house, they never stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ."*** (Acts 5:42)

So the first punishment fell on men who were ready to suffer for 'the name'. This name stood for the person behind the name – the risen, ascended Lord Jesus.

As we go through the Book of Acts, we find Philip. ***"He preached the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ."*** Acts 8:12)

Next we find Saul the persecutor changed into Paul the disciple. (Acts 9:15) We read that when the Lord Jesus asked Ananias to go to Saul and lay hands on him so he would receive his sight, Ananias was fearful since he knew Saul's reputation. But the Lord said to him, ***"Go! This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."***

This is just brief look at how the early church understood 'the name of Jesus'. They used it:

- in prayer to God
- over Satan's power
- in preaching the Gospel of the Cross

But what is the reason for **the power of 'the name'**? Why should it be so mighty in:

- heaven – i.e. in prayer
- over hell – i.e. over the power of Satan
- over people – i.e. in the proclamation of the Gospel

The apostle Paul lifts the veil in his letter to the Philippians when he says that Father God gave His Son, the Lord Jesus, this all-prevailing name on the grounds of what He achieved at Calvary.

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a Cross. Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that <u>at the name of Jesus</u> every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father."
(Phil. 2:8-11)

So 'the name' represents not only the Living Lord Jesus on the throne but the Living Lord Jesus on the Cross where He won His victory over sin and over Satan. It was because He was obedient unto death – even the terrible death of the Cross – and carried it through to the bitter end. This was the only way for us fallen people to gain victory over sin and Satan.

This is the reason Father God gave him <u>the name – the Lord Jesus – the Messiah</u>. At His birth He had the potential to be Our Saviour – the Victor. But He had to carry this task through the tough reality to completion. He had to reach the end – death on the Cross before His calling (His role) could be "super-charged" with all the force and power of His finished work on the Cross.

Then God gave him 'the name' that will eventually conquer all and in the fullness of time we will see, ***"Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."*** (Phil. 2:11)